

Message Text

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10995

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: RIZALIAN OUTBREAK IN BUKIDNON

1. ACCORDING MANILA PRESS, MORE THAN 30 NON-MUSLIM "REBELS" WERE KILLED IN CLASH WITH GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN BUKIDNON, NORTHERN MINDANAO, ON JULY 24. "BULLETIN TODAY" IDENTIFIES REBELS AS "BANDIT RIZALIAN FANATICS". "TIMES JOURNAL" STATES THAT THEY WERE HILL TRIBE MEMBERS. INCIDENT BEGAN WHEN "REBELS" LED BY AQUILINO ANGKOD AMBUSED ROY PIZARRO, IDENTIFIED AS GEODETIC ENGINEER AND WEALTHY LANDOWNER FROM TOWN OF KAWAYAN, WHILE HE WAS OPERATING A TRACTOR. AMBUSHERS WHO CARRIED AMULETS AND INVULNERABILITY CHARMS LATER ENTRENCHED THEMSELVES IN FARM HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE BESIEGED BY CONSTABULARY. THREE PC MEN WERE KILLED IN SHOOTOUT AS WERE 30 PLUS HEAVILY ARMED "REBELS" AND THEIR LEADER, ANGKOD. ACCORDING "TIMES JOURNAL" CONFLICT WAS OVER LAND WITH ANGKOD AND HIS COHORTS CLAIMING A PORTION OF AREA OWNED BY PIZARRO.

2. COMMENT: "RIZALIANS" ARE MEMBERS OF FANATICAL MILLENARIAN SECTS WHO WORSHIP PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HERO
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JOSE RIZAL AS PROPHET. AS EXPLAINED REFAIR RIZALIANISM

(WHICH DATES TO COLONIAL PERIOD) HAS AGAIN BECOME
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN PORTIONS OF MINDANAO AND VISAYAS.
IT THRIVES IN ISOLATED AREAS WHERE SECT LEADERS, OFTEN
CLAIMING SUPERNATURAL POWERS, MANIPULATE IGNORANT FOLLOWERS
AFFLICTED BY VARIETY OF PROBLEMS INCLUDING (INCREASINGLY)
CONFLICTS OVER LAND. IN A FEW CASES THERE HAS BEEN
COOPERATION BETWEEN RIZALIANS AND COMMUNIST INSURGENTS
(NPA).

3. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS PARTICULAR
EPISODE WHICH IS NOT FIRST OF ITS KIND ALTHOUGH NUMBER
OF CASUALTIES IS UNUSUALLY HIGH. GROWTH OF GOP-ENCOURAGED
CORPORATE FARMING IN BUKIDNON, INCLUDING SUGAR OPERATIONS,
HAS CREATED SITUATION IN WHICH TRADITIONAL EASY ACCESS
TO UNOCCUPIED LAND IS FAST BECOMING A THING OF THE
PAST. CHRISTIAN REFUGEES COMING FROM NEIGHBORING
REGIONS AFFECTED BY MUSLIM CONFLICT HAVE ALSO AGGRAVATED
COMPETITION FOR LAND, IN WHICH POOR AND IGNORANT WHO ARE
NATURAL RECRUITS TO RIZALIAN-TYPE FANATICISM ARE INEVIT-
ABLE LOSERS.

4. BUKIDNON IS DIOCESE OF BISHOP CLAVER. WHATEVER FACTS
MAY BE, WE WILL LIKELY HEAR MORE OF THIS EPISODE IN
ACTIVIST CHURCH LITERATURE. IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY
BE USED TO ILLUSTRATE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING CALLOUS
TREATMENT OF POOR.
SULLIVAN

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